

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year (July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011), a total of 760,644 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 9,974 tons or 1% below the 2009-2010 reported tonnage of 770,618 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2010-2011 was 515,494 tons which is a decrease of 68,313 tons or 12% below the farm use tonnage for 2009-2010 of 583,807. Non-farm use tonnage for 2010-2011 was 245,149 tons which is an increase of 58,338 tons or 31% above the 2009-2010 reported tonnage of 186,811.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 443,611 tons sold during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This is an increase of 118,756 tons or 37% above fiscal year 2009-2010 reported tonnage of 324,855.